

NEW BRIDGES

| An Update from Matt and Hannah Bridges |

A Note from Matt:

Hey everyone! It's been an amazing month, especially with ESPERO, the school for the deaf, starting. They were so excited to start school and have made great progress already. Watching the deaf get to go to school after having worked with them for the last year and a half reminds me that God is always working behind the scenes to bring about His kingdom. Seeing their progress is an encouragement to us. I can't wait to see where they'll be at the end of this year. We've also been training two new Hondurans who have been able to begin interpreting for the Sunday services. It's great to see the church getting behind and supporting the deaf.



School Starts with a Bang!

Part of my job here at Mission UpReach involves photographing a lot of the events, projects, and ministries that are constantly going on here in Santa Rosa. That means I get to see, first-hand a lot of beginnings. This month, Matt and I both got to be present for the very first class of Mission UpReach's new deaf school, ESPERO. It was humbling to see the excitement on the faces of these 8 adults, some of who were attending school for the first time ever. They were eager to learn and excited for this new beginning.

Matt and I stayed for about 40 minutes before we left the teachers to do what they do best (teach) and headed home. About





Prayer Requests:

- Please keep Flavia in your prayers as her and her family try to decide the best path for recovery and healing, which may include surgery.
- Please pray for Carmen, another one of the Deaf here, whose sister passed away this month.

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40 minutes later, we got a call from Abbie, one of the teachers and also one of our very good friends, saying that Flavia, one of the deaf women, was vomiting and having intense abdominal and back pains and was asking to be taken to the hospital. So, Matt and I spent the next 2 1/2 hours at the local hospital with her and her husband, helping them explain to the doctors what was going on. Other than that, the classes went very well. We're excited to see the doors that will be opened through this ministry!

DESEO and Brigades!

During this time of the year, being a photographer for the mission also means I get to go hang out with visiting brigades and I also get to go to schools sometimes with DESEO. That is probably one of my favorite things that I get to do with my job. DESEO is such an encouraging program to see in action because you really get to experience the influence that our team has on the kids in Santa Rosa and how that can truly change families and communities and lead people to Christ. Brigades are similarly impactful because I get to see real service in action as our visitors help serve and share the love of the Savior. Everyone who travels down here to work on a brigade is so willing to love and serve everyone they encounter and that's a beautiful thing to witness.

